

Proverbs: Intro and 8-33, Monday, June 10, 2024

Review:

Definition: terse saying that distills truth. Displays how things usually work in God's created order. Shows what is *normative*. All cultures have proverbs. Biblical proverbs are not promises. See Tremper Longman p31-33

List of modern proverbs:

You can't make a good deal with a bad person. – Warren Buffett.

What comes around, goes around.

Where there's smoke there's fire.

Birds of a feather flock together.

What leaders do in moderation, followers do in excess. -Bobby Pruitt

Better to be quiet and let others think you're an idiot than open your mouth and confirm it.

You get what you incentivize.

Like attracts like. -business

You have a perfectly designed system to get the results that you're currently getting.

What you win them with is what you want them to.

Fish and friends both start to stink after three days. Don't wear out your welcome.

You pick your friends, your friends don't pick you.

Immature and weak men tear down, whereas the wise leave a legacy.

"Politics is the
entertainment division of the military industrial complex."

Frank Zappa

American musician, composer, bandleader and social critic

(1940 - 1993)

Authorship: Mainly Solomon, but edited.

Themes (in no particular order):

- Wisdom
- Fear of the Lord (FOTL)
- Words, Mouth, Tongue
- Discipline
- Work Ethic
- Fool, Scoffer, Arrogant, Unethical/Immoral
- Legacy
- Marriage, Adultery, Excellent Wife
- Temper/Anger/Conflict
- The Poor
- Alcohol
- Relationships w/ authority (king, slave, etc.)
- Prosperity
- Justice

1:4 “gullible” or “simple”

Comment on “shrewdness or prudence, sound judgement based on experience. Matthew 10:16

Healthy distrust of people. “Trust but verify.” -Ronald Regan

1:5 “increase in learning” growth mindset and forward movement

Wisdom is the skill of learning from the mistakes of others instead of having to only learn the hard way. It certainly does not exclude LEARNING the hard way but the truly wise do the former more than the latter. One of our Pope family values is ‘FORWARD MOVEMENT. Growth and increase is in line with the Kingship of Jesus and the KOG.

1:7 is the key verse to the entire book. Fearing God as a result of His holiness is the BEGINNING. Modern evangelicalism has fallen into the cultural liberalism of acceptance above everything and believes that God is LOVE, LOVE, LOVE. The scripture says he is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Isaiah 6). The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. There is no other starting point.

Structure of the rest of chapter 1:

8-19 The Enticement of Sinners

20-33 The Call of Wisdom

Commands in verses 8(2x), 10, 15(2x):

- Hear and do not abandon parent's instruction (v8).
- Do not be willing to go with sinners (v10).
- Do not walk with them, withhold your feet from their path (v15).

General counsel is that you become like those you associate with. See also Psalm 1. This is primarily a warning against being with sinful people. In this case, they murder (v11) for the sake of wealth (v13)

The irony is that they are the ones who will lose their lives (v18-19). They will, as Jesus says, lose their souls (Matt. 16:26).

THE CALL OF WISDOM

Where is wisdom found? In the street, in the square, at the entrance to the gates (v20-21). It is available to those willing to listen. The streets and square were where commerce took place. The gates were where not only the entrance to the city but the elders conducted court. In other words, put yourself in the path of wise people.

Notice that v22 speaks in terms of preference, or delight. The simple (simple minded) are those who do not appreciate the complexity of certain issues or life. They want the short cut to everything. Simple people discount difficult thinking. They oversimplify and as a result are stupid. The verse also says that they hate knowledge. They don't see knowledge as the gold nugget that it is. They discard it for ease of thinking and have an exaggerated overlooking of fine details and points for the sake of expediency.

V23 a command: Turn (repent) with two results: I will pour out my spirit on you and make my words known to you. Seeking wisdom means abandoning juvenile thinking. A man cannot see wisdom and folly at the same time. He cannot be sophisticated in his thoughts and simple at the same time. He must learn to appreciate the intricacies of life. He must turn from simplicity and folly to wisdom and truth. It is a sin to stay immature.

V24-27, additionally, the result or payment of folly is "dread, disaster and distress" v26-27. Notice the repetition of disaster and dread with distress being tacked on the end. This is a Hebrew poetic device to emphasize the outcome.

V28-30, then, and only then, after the three above negative consequences, will they seek wisdom, but it's too late. They will not find it. They will continue to be lost. This is similar to what we talked

about yesterday regarding the two different kinds of sorrow and repentance in 2Cor 7:8-10. People are sorry for the outcome of regret and destruction but they do not love wisdom. They rejected or “did not choose the fear of the LORD.” Remember, the FOTL is the beginning of wisdom (1:7). But, the simple fool is not willing and they mock or spurn the truth (v30). They make fun of those who understand and accept the sophistication of life.

V31-33 Consequences: The fool will eat the fruit of their own way. They will be satisfied with their devices. They will revel in their stupidity and asinine ways. They will say things like, “man, we got *TORE UP* last night...” The result is that it will kill them. In the case of the alcoholic or drug abuser that is literally the case. We have an epidemic of new alcoholics in our society. I know and work with many functional alcoholics. The way of foolishness will kill you whether it is that sin or something else. But, the way of the wise will be security and confidence (v33).

Closing Prayer

Father, help us not to overly simplify things for the sake of vain expediency. Would you help us to be wise men who neither get caught in over analyzing things nor oversimplifying complex issues. Give us wisdom and discernment. Help us to love it as it comes from You. Even now, we confess that we want to walk in Your ways and be used by You in our time. Would You make it so? In Jesus' name. Amen.